

## Superior Court of California County of Riverside

4050 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92501

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

August 5, 2011
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(electronic version available at: http://riverside.courts.ca.gov/media/media.shtml

## COURT FORMS LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH COMMITTEE UNDER SEVERE BUDGET REDUCTIONS THAT THREATEN COURT SERVICES

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY:** Ongoing state budget reductions to the Riverside County Superior Court, coupled with not enough judges to hear the high volume of cases, could have the potential to reduce critical court services. These services include resolving family disputes, removing children and the elderly from abusive environments, defending a traffic citation, and providing victims of domestic violence with protection. Every resident of Riverside County is entitled to these services.

A joint working group consisting of judges, justice system representatives, civics groups, bar associations, and members of the public has been convened by the Presiding Judge. The mission of this committee is to educate citizens and the other branches of government about the needs of the local court and to provide support so that the court can fulfill its function as the third branch of government. In addition, the committee is developing ways that the public can help support the court and, ultimately, the community.

Concerned citizens can help by writing directly to the Governor and Riverside County legislators urging them to restore vital funding to the court and provide more judges to hear cases. Go to the court's website at <a href="https://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov">www.riverside.courts.ca.gov</a> (under Court News and Notices) for a sample letter, contact information, and important facts about the court.